

CAMBRIDGE STREET OPEN HOUSE
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 8, 5 P.M. TO 7 P.M.
Department of Public Works, 147 Hampshire Street
Review the Cambridge Street Construction Plans

VELLUCCI COMMUNITY PLAZA MEETING
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 8, 7:30 P.M. TO 9 P.M.
Department of Public Works, 147 Hampshire Street
Meet the Artists Designing the Plaza and
Review the Conceptual Plans

Dear Resident:

October 25, 2001

We are very excited to inform you that construction of roadway, sidewalk, lighting and open space improvements on Cambridge Street from Lechmere Square to Inman Square will begin next summer. The improvements are the result of countless hours of dedication on the part of the Cambridge Street Working Committee, residents and business owners.

Over the last 6 months, the Cambridge Street Working Committee, city staff and consultants have been taking the conceptual plans for Cambridge Street and finalizing them for construction. There have been minor modifications to the plans, but they have not changed dramatically since the last open house in January, 1999. We are hosting a Cambridge Street open house on November 8th to give residents and business owners an opportunity to ask city staff any questions they have regarding the Cambridge Street improvement plan and to give new people to the area an opportunity to review the improvement plans.

If you are unable to attend the open house or the Vellucci Community Plaza meeting, please feel free to contact Katherine Watkins at 617-349-4751 or kwatkins@ci.cambridge.ma.us with any questions or comments.



View of Lambert / Fulkerson Intersection
Looking Toward Lechmere

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

The construction plans for the Cambridge Street improvements are currently being finalized. A contractor will be selected in the early spring of 2002 and **construction will begin in late spring / early summer of 2002**. It is anticipated that construction will occur over the course of two years (2002 and 2003). The project will be a major construction effort and the City will work with residents and business owners to minimize the disruption during construction.

CAMBRIDGE STREET IMPROVEMENTS

The Cambridge Street Working Committee, residents, business owners, city staff and consultants have worked together since 1997 to develop the Cambridge Street plans. The goals of the Cambridge Street project are to make the street safer and more inviting for pedestrians, improve the condition of the roadway and sidewalks, improve the look of the street by planting additional street trees, improve the aesthetics and function of the street lighting and improve the open spaces along the corridor.

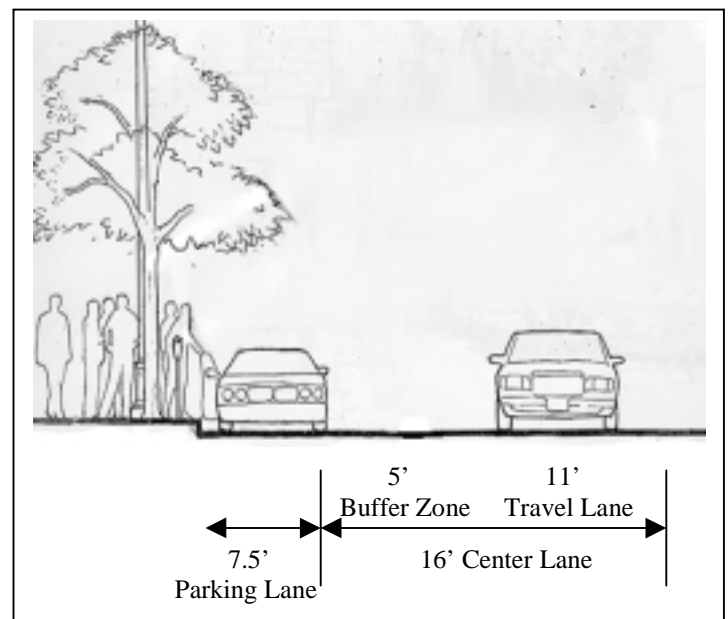
The key elements of the improvement plan are described below. The detailed plans will be available for review at the November 8th open house.

Roadway and Sidewalk Improvements

The road and sidewalk surfaces will be reconstructed on Cambridge Street between Lechmere Square and Inman Square. The typical street cross section will be:

- One parking lane (7.5 feet wide) adjacent to the curb on each side of the street.
- Two travel lanes, one eastbound and one westbound. Each travel lane will be striped for an 11 foot vehicular travel lane and a 5 foot buffer zone to minimize conflicts between moving vehicles and parked cars.

Sidewalks will be concrete with a 3 foot brick edging strip. Street trees, lights, signage, parking meters, bicycle parking, benches and trash receptacles will be located in the 3 foot brick edging strip.



Layout of Roadway

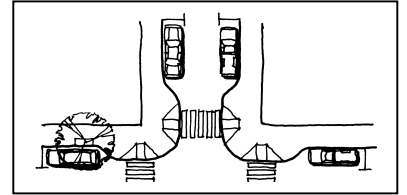
On-Street Parking

The availability of on-street parking spaces has been and remains an important concern for residents, business owners and patrons along Cambridge Street. Throughout the planning process, maintaining existing on-street parking spaces has been a priority. The

total number of free, handicap, and metered parking spaces on Cambridge Street will be increased by over 20 spaces.

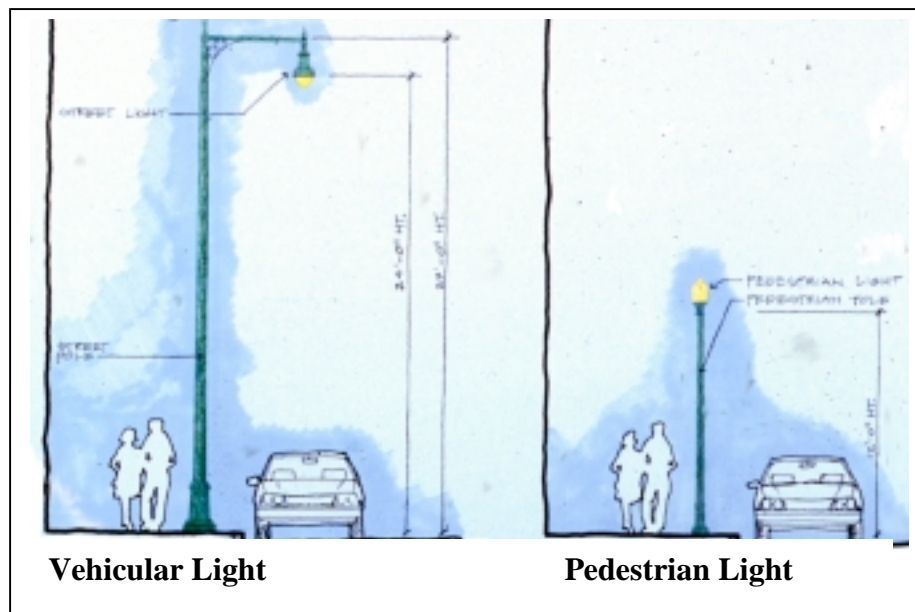
Curb Extensions

Curb extensions will be constructed along Cambridge Street. Curb extensions enlarge sidewalks at intersections. They make it easier for pedestrians and drivers to see each other, shorten the distance pedestrians have to cross and slow turning vehicles.



Street Lighting

All of the existing cobra head street lighting on Cambridge Street between Lechmere Square and Inman Square will be replaced. The new lighting includes attractive pedestrian and vehicular scale lighting fixtures.



Street Trees

Approximately 140 new street trees will be planted along Cambridge Street. The location and species of the street trees have been carefully selected to minimize conflicts with utilities, parking, street lights, loading zones and bus stops.

Signage

All of the street name and regulatory signs on Cambridge Street will be replaced. The new street name signs will be larger than the existing ones and easier for people to read. The parking regulation signs will be located in such a way as to minimize their number.

City staff are working with the Metropolitan District Commission to install appropriate highway signage on O'Brien Highway to more clearly identify Cambridge Street for motorists on O'Brien Highway.

Municipal Parking Lots

The Springfield Street, Windsor Street and Warren Street municipal parking lots provide vital parking for the Cambridge Street business community. Signage, landscaping and lighting improvements will be constructed at the three lots.

OPEN SPACES

Valente Library Park

The current side yard of the Valente Library will be transformed into a park with a reading garden. The improvements include benches, plantings, lighting and reconfiguring the Library's front entrance to accommodate an accessible ramp. Three of the benches in the park will be cat-shaped bronze benches designed by Cambridge artist Judy McKie.

Millers River Park

Millers River Park is located next to the railroad tracks on the north side of Cambridge Street. It is currently an under utilized open space that is in need of attention. The improvements include a new lawn area, benches, lighting and a raised planting bed.

Vellucci Community Plaza in Inman Square

The design of the Vellucci Community Plaza in Inman Square is currently under way. This area was not originally included in the Cambridge Street project but was recently added. The artists and consultants working on the design of the Vellucci Community Plaza will be at the November 8th meeting (7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.) to discuss conceptual plans for the space.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions about the Cambridge Street project, the open house or the Vellucci Community Plaza meeting, please feel free to contact me at 617-349-4751 or kwatkins@ci.cambridge.ma.us.

Sincerely,

Katherine F. Watkins, P.E.
Transportation Project Manager